

Appl. No. 09/596,362
Amendment F & Response dated February 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 18, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and the listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of treating alcohol craving by administering an anticraving composition of matter, comprising an effective amount of at least one alpha-pyrone compound having the structural formula in which R1 is a hydrogen atom or an alkoxy radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and R3 is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a styryl or phenethyl radical optionally substituted by one or two methylenedioxy radicals or one or two hydroxyl groups and/or one or two alkoxy radicals having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or one or two alkoxy radicals having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, with the proviso that, when R2 is a hydroxyl group, then R3 is necessarily an unsubstituted phenethyl radical, with the proviso that when R3 is an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, then R1 and R2 cannot both be hydrogen, in a physiologically acceptable carrier medium.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method of treating alcohol craving as defined by claim 1, wherein said alpha-pyrone compound is one or more of the alpha-pyrones found in the plant *Piper methysticum*.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method of treating alcohol craving as defined by claim 1, comprising a pill.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of treating alcohol craving as defined by claim 1, comprising a gum.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): A method of treating alcohol craving as defined by claim 1, comprising a transdermal patch.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method of treating alcohol craving as defined by claim 1, comprising a liquid.

Claims 7-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said anticraving composition is administered orally by way of a non-alcoholic wine beverage.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said anticraving composition is administered orally by way of a non-alcoholic beer beverage.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said anticraving composition is administered orally by way of a distilled spirit beverage in regard to which the alcohol has been removed and replaced by kavapyrones.

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Claim 13 (currently amended) A non-alcoholic beverage formulated to simulate the taste and aroma of an alcoholic beverage and containing a composition of matter comprising an effective amount of at least one alpha-pyrone compound having the structural formula in which R1 is a hydrogen atom or an alkoxy radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and R3 is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a styryl or phenethyl radical optionally substituted by one or two methylenedioxy radicals or one or two hydroxyl groups and/or one or two alkoxy radicals having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, with the proviso that, when R2 is a hydroxyl group, then R3 is necessarily an unsubstituted phenethyl radical, with the proviso that when R3 is an alkyl radical having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, then R1 and R2 cannot both be hydrogen, in a physiologically acceptable carrier medium.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The non-alcoholic beverage of claim 13 formulated to simulate the taste and aroma of wine.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The non-alcoholic beverage of claim 13 formulated to simulate the taste and aroma of beer.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The non-alcoholic beverage of claim 13 formulated to simulate the taste and aroma of distilled spirits.